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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 13 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Objection to claims 2-3 and 12-13 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Responsive to the objection, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 13 to recite "NRSS type B." Applicants submit that the subject matter of claims 2 and 12 are distinguishable from the subject matter of amended claims 3 and 13, respectively.

Rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-13 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chaney (US Pat No 5852290)

Applicants submit that for the reasons discussed below amended claims 1 and 7, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Chaney.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "... means are provided for one of blocking and enabling respective signal paths associated with selected ones of said operational contacts **to implement an interface for one of the first card type and the second card type**... (emphasis added)" Claim 7 has been amended to similarly recite this limitation. Applicants submit that nowhere does Chaney disclose or suggest this feature of amended claims 1 and 7.

Chaney discloses a system that provides a smart card that is able to descramble the input signal and provide an output is secure against attempts to monitor the data being transferred to and from the card (col. 2, lines 17-55). In that regard, Chaney provides descrambler 185 within card 180 and a mechanism for high speed data transfer between card 180 and transport 120 via card reader 190. In particular, a specific assignment of the pin is used to provide this high speed data transfer (col. 7, lines 26-35). This arrangement is enabled during set up when the smart card responds to the reset signal with an "answer to reset" data sequence specified in ISO standard 7816-3, section 6, and which response

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specifies the protocol type number (col. 10, lines 19-23). The protocol type number in this case is type T=5, which "... is classified as "reserved", i.e. **currently undefined**, in the ISO standard. (col. 10, lines 25-26) (emphasis added)"

However, nowhere does Chaney disclose or suggest one of **blocking and enabling** of signal paths associated with selected ones of the operational contacts **to implement an interface** for one of the first card type and the second card type. Chaney mentions the possibility of using certain contacts for transferring high speed data and replacing a specified signal with another signal, e.g., replace the VPP (programming voltage) with the packet clock signal (see col. 7, lines 31-33). According to Chaney, when a reset signal is applied to the card, the card returns an "answer to reset" data sequence, which specifies that the protocol is reserved, or undefined. However, Chaney says nothing about blocking and enabling the signal path of selected operational contacts to implement and interface as recited in the present claims. In view of the above, applicants submit that Chaney fails to disclose or suggest a notable feature of amended claims 1 and 7, and as such, these claims, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Chaney.

Applicants submit that the remaining references cited in this section also fail to disclose or suggest the above-mention limitation of amended claims 1 and 7.

The portion of the ISO 7816 standard, chapter 4, cited in the Office Action describes the smart card power-up sequence, including the timing diagram for such a sequence. The standard portion describes the exchange of the reset signal and the answer to reset (ATR) from the card (Fig. 4.3 and associated description). The standard portion also notes that if no ATR is received, the card reader goes into an "idle" state (Fig. 4.2). However, nowhere does the standard portion disclose or suggest the above mentioned limitation of amended claims 1 and 7, namely, "... **blocking and enabling respective signal paths** associated with selected ones of said operational contacts **to implement an interface for one of the first card type and the second card type**... (emphasis added)"

The portion of the ISO 7816-3 standard cited in the Office Action also describes the exchange of the reset signal and the answer to reset (ATR) from the card. However, nowhere does the cited standard portion disclose or suggest the

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above mentioned limitation of amended claims 1 and 7, namely, "... **blocking and enabling respective signal paths** associated with selected ones of said operational contacts **to implement an interface for one of the first card type and the second card type**... (emphasis added)" The cited standard portion mentions deactivation of the contacts in section 3.2.c. However, the deactivation is performed in the context of an unresponsive card or detection of card removal. In this case, the deactivation is presumably performed on the basis that communication with the card will not continue, rather than to implement an interface for one of a first card type and a second card type.

The answer.com reference again mentions the reset and answer to reset (ATR) exchange between the card and the card reader, and further mentions that the card may identify the card type and indicate the desired bitrate for further communication. However, nowhere does the cited reference disclose or suggest the above mentioned limitation of amended claims 1 and 7, namely, "... **blocking and enabling respective signal paths** associated with selected ones of said operational contacts **to implement an interface for one of the first card type and the second card type**... (emphasis added)" It is not seen how the the identification of the card type and the specification of the desired bitrate corresponds to the recited blocking and enabling of respective signal paths to implement an interface in response to the determining means recited in the amended claims.

In view of the above, applicants submit that amended claims 1 and 7, and the claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Chaney, nor the remaining references cited in the present Office Action.

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Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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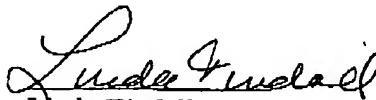   Registration No. 40,677

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